

**Introduced by Senator Blakeslee**

April 7, 2011

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 36—Relative to Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 36, as introduced, Blakeslee. Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day.

This measure would declare May 19, 2011, to be Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Liver cancer and liver disease related to hepatitis  
2 B and hepatitis C are among the leading killers in California; and  
3 WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is the most prevalent bloodborne  
4 disease in the United States and in California; and  
5 WHEREAS, Early detection of hepatitis B or hepatitis C  
6 infection promotes effective management or treatment of these  
7 infections, preventing disability, loss of productivity and income,  
8 and allows persons to live full, satisfying, and productive lives;  
9 and  
10 WHEREAS, Undetected and untreated hepatitis B or hepatitis  
11 C infection can lead to disability or death; and  
12 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated half million  
13 California residents with chronic hepatitis C infection do not know  
14 they are infected, and are therefore at high risk of severe liver  
15 disease, liver cancer, or liver failure; and  
16 WHEREAS, The majority of the estimated 125,000 California  
17 residents with hepatitis B infection do not know that they are

1 infected, and are therefore at high risk of severe liver disease, liver  
2 cancer, or liver failure; and

3 WHEREAS, Untreated hepatitis B and hepatitis C leading causes  
4 of liver failure requiring a liver transplant; and

5 WHEREAS, There is a vaccine for the prevention of hepatitis  
6 B, the first proven, low-cost vaccination against any form of cancer  
7 made available to Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, The cost of hospitalizations for liver cancer and  
9 liver disease reached \$2 billion in California in 2007, mostly paid  
10 for by tax-supported public health insurers; and

11 WHEREAS, Hepatitis awareness education campaigns and  
12 accessible screening for hepatitis B and hepatitis C, along with  
13 appropriate treatment, can reduce the damage from hepatitis B and  
14 hepatitis C viral infection to individuals and to our community,  
15 financially as well as physically and emotionally; now, therefore,  
16 be it

17 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
18 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
19 declares May 19, 2011, to be Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day in  
20 California; and be it further,

21 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
22 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.